

SUPERFUND

Fact Sheet

ALEXANDER FARMS
Benton County, Washington



U S ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION

September 1999

There has been a delay in treating contaminated soil at the Alexander Farms site. This fact sheet explains the delay, the actions taken to address the problems, and the new schedule for soil treatment.

Why the Delay?

The thermal treatment unit at this site has been used successfully in previous cleanups. Recently, many upgrades were performed on the unit to make it operate more safely and efficiently. The baghouse, which is a main part of the dust control system, was greatly improved and additional fans, dampers, and electronic controls were added. Unfortunately, several problems surfaced during the preliminary on-site testing. The unit could not run at its full rated capacity and still meet EPA's stringent treatment and emissions requirements. Listed below are the main problems with the system and the steps that are being taken to address those problems.

- One of the two burners may be too small - The burner is being worked on to increase its heating ability. A larger burner has been located and will be installed, if necessary.
- The capacity of the packed tower fan may have been too low - The fan has been reconfigured to provide adequate air flow through the unit.
- Improvements to the baghouse may allow less air to flow through the treatment unit - EPA's contractors may be shortening and rerouting some of the ducting in the baghouse to improve air flow and pressure.
- The temperature of air from the dryer (kiln) to the baghouse runs too high. Adjustments to the dryer are being made to correct this problem.

Soil treatment will not begin until all precautions are taken to minimize any hazards to workers and residents of the surrounding community. The treatment unit must also remove Dinoseb from the soil in a cost effective manner. The financial costs for the modification to the system are minimal and EPA expects to complete the cleanup under the estimated budget.

What is the New Schedule for Operation?

EPA anticipates that soil treatment will begin in late September or early October, and continue until all the stockpiled soil is treated. Treatment is expected to be completed by the end of November.

For More Information:

You are encouraged to contact any of the people below if you have questions or concerns about this site:

Krista Rave (EPA Community Relations) at
206-553-6686

Anthony Barber (EPA On-Scene Coordinator) at
206-553-2136

All documents related to the Alexander Farms removal are available for your review at the Grandview Library, 311 Division Street in Grandview, Washington.

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting EPA toll free at 1-800-424-4372.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

BULK RATE
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
U.S. EPA
Permit No. G-35

SUPERFUND FACT SHEET
ALEXANDER FARMS
Benton County, Washington